

Delaware Libraries Celebrate Reading and Back to School

Delaware's First Lady Tracey Quillen Carney and Delaware Libraries celebrated libraries and reading during Summer Library Reading Celebrations at the Milford Public Library and Route 9 Library and Innovation Center. The First Lady, Delaware Libraries, United Way and other partners encourage all children and teens to continue to use their most valuable school supply, a library card, year-round!

"Promoting early literacy and school readiness is a critical part of giving all of Delaware's children a 'first chance' to succeed," said **First Lady Tracey Quillen Carney**. "The library habit is about literacy, as well as parent-child engagement and access to other services that support strong and healthy families. To support our families and a [First Chance](#) for all of our children, I encourage every Delawarean to get and use a Delaware library card."

"Librarians help to generate a passion for reading and learning," said **Jeffrey Bullock, Delaware's Secretary of State**. "A healthy reading habit motivates, inspires, encourages creativity and ensures school success."□

"Opening a book opens children's minds to possibilities and expands their view of other worlds," said **Dr. Susan Bunting, Delaware's Secretary of Education**. "Libraries are a wonderful place to start those adventures for all readers."

"To borrow a line from Emily Dickinson, libraries allow us to 'dwell in possibility,'" said **State Representative Krista M.Z. Griffith**. "They are lighthouses for learning and oases for imagination."

The Colonial School District Libraries are members of the Delaware Library Consortium, and a new pilot program with New

Castle County Libraries for teens in the district was launched at the Route 9 Library & Innovation Center. The new library card enables teens to check out up to twelve items fine-free from any library in New Castle County. The Colonial School District is including library card applications with their parent paperwork.

“Our library system enables countless residents to study, learn, and find work,” said **New Castle County Executive Matt Meyer**. “I am excited for the new teen library card and the endless possibilities as well as help to overcome barriers such as library fines, a long-time challenge when it comes to continued literacy and growing appreciation for our libraries.”

By allowing students to check out multiple books, providing access to diverse literature across multiple genres, we are allowing our students to utilize books as mirrors, windows, and doors as a means to make connections, share perspectives, and learn more about the world and ourselves,” said **Dr. Dusty Blakey, Superintendent, Colonial School District**.

“Anytime is a great time for students and their families to engage in activities that nurture a love of reading,” said **Schlonn Hawkins, Director, Get Delaware Reading**. “United Way is excited to provide resources that will help children avoid summer learning loss and prepare for the upcoming school year.”

Frequent library use immerses children in “book floods” to support reading, rather than “book deserts,” said **State Librarian, Dr. Annie Norman**. “Studies have shown that children who participate in public library summer programs score higher on reading achievement tests at the beginning of the new school year, experience less summer reading loss, and begin the school year with more confidence.”

**About:**

The Delaware Division of Libraries, a state agency dedicated to unleashing the potential in all Delawareans in partnership with Delaware Libraries, offers free access to the online catalog (delawarelibraries.org); Wi-Fi; computers/internet; eBooks, programs/workshops, community partnerships, and more.